Livestock policy

424. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of people engaged and working in livestock sector;

(b) the contribution of livestock sector to agriculture and allied activities;

(c) whether Government have formulated a National Livestock Policy for the development of this sector;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) According to National Sample Survey Organisation, survey of 1999-2000, the estimate of employment in animal husbandry sector was 11 million in principal status and 8 million in subsidiary status which is 5% of the total working population of the country.

(b) The contribution of livestock sector during 2004-05 in GDP at current prices is Rs. 123879 crore. Percentage contribution of livestock sector in GDP of agriculture and allied activities during 2004-05 is 22.3%.

(c) and (d) The National Livestock Policy is under formulation. Its finalisation will take time as it involves consultation with various technical experts, State Governments and other stakeholders to obtain their views before finalising the Policy.

UNDP Report on declining foodgraln production

425. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the UNDP Asia Pacific Human Development Report, 2006 reveals grim farm picture of India, declining foodgrain production, low public investment in agriculture and cheap imports has kept India's food surplus constant at US $3 bn. from 1990 to 2000 and little has been done to promote productivity and employment;

(b) whether the report suggests that if Government want equitable development, it will need to invest more in agriculture, particularly, capital

formation and provide price support, affordable loan, assistance with irrigation, marketing, storage, processing and distribution facilities; and

(c) whether Government have considered those suggestions and taken steps to implement them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Asia-Pacific Human Development Report, 2006 focuses, *inter alia,* on transforming trade for human development in the region. As regards India, it had shown a constant net food surplus of $3 billion in 1990 and 2000. However, the foodgrain production in India stood at 176.39 million tonnes in 1990-91, 196.81 million tonnes in 2000-01 and 208.3 million tonnes in 2005-06 as per the latest of offical estimates.

(b) Yes, Madam. At page 60 of the said Report, these suggestions appear.

(c) The Government is already aware of the issues raised and suggestions made in the Report. The Government has identified following thrust areas for implementation and monitoring in a time-bound manner.—

(i) Revamping agriculture research, agriculture extension and agriculture education;

(ii) National Horticulture Mission-catalyze new initiatives with a focus on horticulture;

(iii) National Cotton Mission;

(iv) Reforming agricultural markets and promoting post-harvest technology;

(v) Revival of plantation crop economy.

In pursuance of these thrust areas, the Government has started schemes in respect of horticulture development in mission mode, micro-

irrigation, enhancing sustainability of dry land/rainfed farming, National Mission on Bamboo Technology and trade development, restructuring of Crop Insurance Scheme, strengthening and rejuvenation of cooperatives and reforms in agriculture marketing and public extension support systems These measures are intended to boost investment and employment in the agriculture sector.

* Under Macro Management of Agriculture, Integrated Cereals Development Programme (ICDP) for Rice, Wheat and Coarse Cereals, and Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM) are in operation.

* The comprehensive credit policy of the Government contains measures for doubling of agriculture credit flow in three years and provision of debt relief to the farmers affected by natural calamities.

* The Central Government is providing assistance to the State Government under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) since 1996-97 for expeditious completion of irrigation projects.

* With a view to ensuring remunerative prices to the growers for their produce and ecouraging higher investment and production, the Government announces each season Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for major agricultural commodities.

Rise in Prices of Vegetables

426. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken into cognizance the steep rise in the prices of vegetables in various cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the comparable figures of previous years;